

Chair Person – Carol Allenby Report 2010

The weather was very kind to us during the tennis season in 2010 and we were certainly able to use the courts more than in previous seasons.

Big thank you to all the committee members and club members who have supported the various activities carried out by the club. Thank you also to Peter who has treated the courts throughout the season to stop moss and to all the club members who turned out in April to clear the courts, weed the perimeter and cut back the hedging around the court. I think this is the first year that we have been able to get balls that have been hit over the court into the hedge! Thank you also to Charlie for spraying weedkiller to keep the weeds under control in the middle of the summer.

Thanks to Chris for maintaining the web site, setting up a club site on face book and for generating a questionnaire with Inside Out tennis to ensure we are providing you with what you want to enjoy your tennis.

This year saw the tennis club obtain regular use of the new pavilion for tournaments, coaching and club nights. For the first time in many years we did manage to have a reasonable number of people regularly attend club night on a Friday evening. Access to the pavilion for drinks and the establishment of a rota certainly helped encourage more people to club night.

Thank you to Paula and then Mandy for coming up with a solution to the padlock and keys to access the tennis court. The new key box with code is providing an easier solution for everybody.

As ever the first tournament of the season was well attended and thank you again to Pam and Peter for organising and cooking the barbecue. This year's family tournament saw the children starting to give us adults a run for our money, maybe next year they need to be given a handicap! The introduction of a strawberry cream tea and American tournament in June was well received with a good attendance on an extremely hot day.

This year we decided to switch to Inside Out tennis for our coaching. They took on board our concerns from previous coaching with GSM and we had 2 consistent coaches throughout the sessions. After initial difficulties matching up abilities and ages with the junior coaching sessions everything ran smoothly. With a wide range of abilities, time availability and ages unfortunately everybody's preference could not be accommodated. Sorry to those junior members who were unable to get the type of coaching they wanted last year. InsideOut tennis has been very interactive with the committee and we are working together to provide better coaching for the 2011 season. Hopefully this activity coupled with working more closely with the school should help us provide improved coaching for the juniors in 2011.

Feedback from Inside Out for the club was: -

"We were delighted to hear the feedback from this term of coaching was good on the whole and we would like to offer our review of the term and some suggestion for the future! I'm also waiting on word from someone about the repair for the netpost, hopefully have an answer for you soon.

Review

- **After the initial reshuffle it seems everything settled into a rythm which was great and Brett and Gabi (and later Victoria who covered Gabi) were happy with how things ran.**
- **We know with the younger players it was a difficult group because of the range of abilities and ages all playing together, but Brett seemed to manage it as well as it could have been.**
- **The adult coaching sessions seemed very popular and well received, Brett loved taking them and always had plenty of praise for the application right through from beginners to more experienced players.**
- The initial administration backing up the programme seemed to go reasonably smoothly and we got hold of everyone in some for or another in time to begin the first week.
- With so many players taking part, the main difficulty was when new players arrived, unregistered and we'd like to make sure that the players contact us first so we can adjust registers etc. It isn't an easy position for coaches to be in as good coaches plan their lessons for the number as well as the ability of players.

For the future

- **We'd love to try and make more of a year round programme for Burton if the club are happy with that.** Obviously the drawbacks with winter play are a) lack of floodlights and b) slippery court conditions when wet. We understand that floodlights are not a reasonable expense for a 2 court club but a court clean might be worth looking at if the club thinks it is viable (it should remove moss etc and prolong the court life). Our suggestion (particularly for adult coaching) is to utilise spare dome time at Loughborough during the evenings. We may have identified a slot or 2 and we'll be in touch asap about this as i gather there is interest in adult coaching continuing through the winter.
- We've completed the 'Burton' club section on our website (which you can find via the main menu on our website, www.insideouttennis.com under the clubs and schools tab), but are just missing photos to create a slideshow of the club. If you have any you are happy to use, please email them across to me! Instead of creating a news page that we would update with your news articles, we've simply created a frame within which your website is visible for people to find the latest news on the club.
- We'll be creating a dedicated email address for Burton members and enquiries to contact us at, to help us separate our activities at various clubs. This will be burtonclub@insideouttennis.com and we'd appreciate if that was added to your website as a point of contact.
- The feedback we've had from both coaches and some players is for a more structured programme where we can separate (particularly juniors) by both ability and age, so junior beginners and more advanced players are grouped separately, not merely with those of the same age. We are happy to try and make this happen, however we may need to run on more

than 1 day to make that viable and it will obviously need further discussion.

Suggestions

- **Add a pre-school age session to the activities at the club to get players involved from an early age. Also allows us to offer more sessions without impinging on peak court time as can be done in mornings or afternoons before other coaching sessions begin**
- **Daytime adult coaching for those who can make it. As with above point, it could alleviate some of the group sizes in off-peak court time. We also run such sessions at Loughborough as 'Ladies' or 'Parents' mornings which are good social events but we are currently looking to build a daytime 'adult coaching' structure there**
- Teams: if enough adults are interested, we don't see why the current playing level couldn't support an adult team or 2 from the club in the local leagues. We know issues involving the number of courts prevent the primary obstacle (minimum of 3 to enter most leagues), but we'd be happy to explore our contacts at other clubs and facilities if the interest were strong enough. We aren't sure currently if there is enough of a base to support junior teams.
- **Links with local schools to provide indoor mini tennis facilities during the winter**

Additional info:

- Unfortunately Brett McLennan is leaving us to become the new Head Coach at Corby Tennis Centre. We did make him what we thought was a good job offer but Corby's was hard to compete with. We're gutted about losing him, we think he's a fantastic coach but we still have your coach from the previous season on board, Richard Surtees and he doesn't appear to be going anywhere in the near future and he is a very good replacement for Brett at Burton if you're committee is in agreement?
- If in the future Burton does wish to develop facilities further (I think you mentioned facilities are managed by the Parish committee) then we have contact details for the LTA Facilities team with whom we've already set the ball rolling for the redevelopment of Quorn Tennis Club. Just a note that redevelopment with LTA assistance requires clubs to be LTA Affiliated and Clubmark accredited which we can discuss with you if the situation arises"

Congratulations to Emma Allenby who won the logo design competition which is now being used on the club website and can be seen by all on our new banner which is hung up at the tennis courts during the season. Thanks Paula for coming up with the idea of a banner and for getting it made.

Thank you to the community fund for their support in getting a new notice board and thanks to Gary Allenby for putting it up and for designing and building its very own roof to make sure its well protected from the rain.

Thanks to everybody who joined us for mulled wine and mince meat pies and the Carol singing to raise awareness of the tennis club to the local community. Thanks to Ben Allenby for designing the Christmas card, thought the tennis ball baubles on the Christmas tree was great idea. The gentlemen versus the ladies rendition of Good King Wenceslas was particularly entertaining for all participants and anybody listening and certainly managed to keep us warm when the temperature was a chilly -8! We raised a grand total of £116 for HomeStart, thank you to all the good singers who managed to ensure my dulcitol tones could not be heard.

Lastly, looking towards the future we will need to resurface the courts in 2-3 years at a cost of ~£20,000, so we will need all your help to raise the funds with the playing field association and the local community. Club membership has remained fairly static and the committee are working with the playing field association to improve our facilities by providing access to a toilet for use by the tennis club at anytime, upgrading the changing facilities and incorporating hedge trimming for the tennis club into the regular trimming for the rest of the playing field association to try and attract new members.

We want to hear what you and other members of the community want from the tennis club, so please complete the questionnaire that Chris has set up and send it to people you know and ask them to complete it, it only takes 5 minutes.